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The China Mail

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The Police Report for 1892 is rather a notable official document. It is not voluminous—police reports seldom are,—but it is at least less bald than the report of 1891, and it sets forth a few facts which are worthy of consideration. A correspondent, writing recently about the stray dog question and the manner in which it was being dealt with by the police, indulged in something like a sweeping denunciation of the whole Force, and quoted the statement of a gentleman who is admitted to know a great deal more about the police than anyone at present in the colony; who

On the basis of the foregoing, it is concluded that the particular circumstances of the police dog's attack on which was the subject of the correspondence between the respondent's remarks, the wedding out of the house, what might be called the harmful and unnecessary dog, we ventured to ascertain that certain charges which had been made against the police were not supported by evidence. With respect to however, to the general charge of inefficiency, it must be admitted that our correspondent's statement might very fairly have been based on the facts which appear in the report of the Captain Superintendent for the year 1868-69. It should be mainly to be inclined to go so far as to say that the force is better without the force, although it is very evident that the work which it at a complies is a rather net return of

general denunciation, and an exception should be made as regards the detective department, for this seems to us to be the weakest and least competent branch of the service. We need not refer to certain conspicuous failures in the work of this department which have occurred within the past few years, and which must be in the recollection of nearly everybody in the colony; it is enough to look at the report of last year's work in the department we find that, out of the 2,938 cases which were recorded as 'serious crime,' there were six cases which were regarded as sufficient to be important to require special mention. These were three cases of murder, two

in which the victims were Chinese, is stated that the police were unable to effect any arrests. In the other case the cold-blooded and deliberate murder of the Indian watchman, Ramasamy, of the Happy Valley, two Indians were committed for trial, and acquitted. Two coolies were arrested in connection with one of the manslaughter cases, but there was no sufficient evidence to bring them on a conviction. It is said that the assailant made good his escape before his arrest could be effected. regards the one flagrant case of highway robbery, in which five men took part, we are informed that the police had no means of tracing the

90 earned in these three conspicuous cases.
 91 of the year have escaped punishment.
 92 This remarkable record shows either
 93 that the police have been singularly un-
 94 fortunate in every case in which they
 95 were called upon to put forth their
 96 powers, or that it is, to put it in
 97 general, a somewhat peculiar state of
 98 affairs in Denmark. It was evidently
 99 considered necessary to make some
 100 attempt at an explanation of this list
 101 of failures, for we find it immedi-
 102 ately followed by the following paragraph:
 103 'The facilities for leaving the Colonies
 104 and the proximity of the mainland of
 105 China, added to the reluctance
 106 of respectable people to lay informa-

difficult for the police to bring
guilty parties to justice. In many
instances the offender has made good
his escape before the Police have
received information of the offence, and
therefore many cases have broken down
through the reluctance of witnesses to
come forward and give evidence.¹ Of
course, cannot be accepted as an ex-
planation of the fact that the police are
useless in regard to each one of whom
may be called the six important cases of
the year. It is well known that in
police encounter certain difficulties arise
in the discharge of their duties which
are peculiar to the place, but the
organisation of the force and the

cases it is timely to consider the question whether something can be done in the way of obtaining increased efficiency in the management of the police. It may be some satisfaction to the public to know from the report that even precaution has been taken against repetition of the *Namoa* calamity, that steamers carrying Chinese passengers have been regularly searched before leaving the port, but the confidence which is placed in these precautions must be greatly modified by consideration of the somewhat formidable list of crimes of the most serious kind perpetrated with impunity in this colony last year.

where in the Colony, but, we understand that Mr Denison, architect, who resides in Brisban, Magazine, St, was assaulted while on his way home yesterday afternoon on the pathway which leads from Bow Road to Plantation Road. The Chinaman collared Mr Denison from behind, and was about to throw a handful of sand, when Denison, who was equal to the emergency, grappled with his assailant, and succeeded to force him over the edge of the pathway, causing him to sustain a somewhat painful fall. The assailant, a native of the truthwood, some distance from the low.

